

Boulder Brook Reservation was purchased in 1966 by the Town of Wellesley from Mrs. Lillie P. Rich to provide recreation and conservation land in the northwest part of Town. The 31-acre parcel was named after Boulder Brook, which flows through the reservation and takes its name from the giant glacial boulders found there.

In 1970 the reservation was expanded by the addition of Rocky Ledges, 16 acres of steeply rising land to the north. This land, originally planned for housing, was obtained in exchange for Town-owned land off Albion Road. The two reservations, totalling 47 acres, extend from the Weston line to the Bates School grounds and Kelly Memorial Park, 17 acres acquired in 1942 and named for John and Joseph Kelly, brothers who died in World War II.

There are 11 entrances to Boulder Brook Reservation from the streets which dead-end there, plus two access points in Weston. Large groups should use the parking area off Elmwood Road at Kelly Pond or the lot at Bates School during non-school hours. Active recreation facilities including ballfields, soccer, tennis courts and a skating pond are found in Kelly Park. Boulder Brook Reservation is ideal for family outings, environmental study, and just getting away from it all. Quiet recreation such as hiking, bird-watching, cross-country skiing and photography are enjoyed here.

Because of the varied terrain - field and forest, swamp and clifftop - the area supports a variety of wildlife. Originally cleared for farming, most of the land has reverted to woodland. The Lillie Rich Meadow is kept open by mowing to provide habitat for the many birds and animals which require open land or edge areas for survival.

But woodlands at Boulder Brook are not all the same. Swampy lowlands are characterized by Red Maple, Willows and many Ferns. Rocky highlands are covered with Red and White Oak and Red Cedar. In between are found White Pine, Pitch Pine, Hickory and Maple, with Blueberries, Sweet Fern, Dogwood, Bullbrier and Buckthorn forming an understory. Where field and forest meet, the edge habitat is exceptionally rich in plant and animal species. Edges are characterized by fast-growing, short-lived and sun-loving trees such as Aspen, Birch and Poplar. As the woodlands mature, climax species including White Pine, Red Oak, Red Maple and Hickory will predominate.

The retreat of the glacier 10,000 years ago created the geological interest of Boulder Brook and Rocky Ledges Reservations today. The glacier carried in and dropped huge boulders from other places (glacial erratics) while scouring away the local rocks to expose volcanic Precambrian granite, diorite and diabase 550-million years old. The "Geological Story of Wellesley", obtainable from the Wellesley Conservation Council, is a good guide. Glacial grooves (striae) are visible on the clifftop at Rocky Ledges, where the view from the 302-ft. elevation is rewarding to the energetic climber.

The guidemap on the opposite page will help newcomers with the maze of trails connecting points of interest on the two reservations. Remember that major trails are blazed with blue dots for entering and yellow dots for leaving the reservation.

Regulations for the use of Wellesley's parks and reservations may be obtained from the Natural Resources Commission or the Town Clerk in Town Hall. Lands are open from sunup to sundown. Motor vehicles, dumping, littering, unleashed pets, firearms, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. All plants and animals are protected - please do not pick plants or disturb wildlife in the park.

We hope you enjoy your visit. Please respect the natural features and land so others may enjoy them.